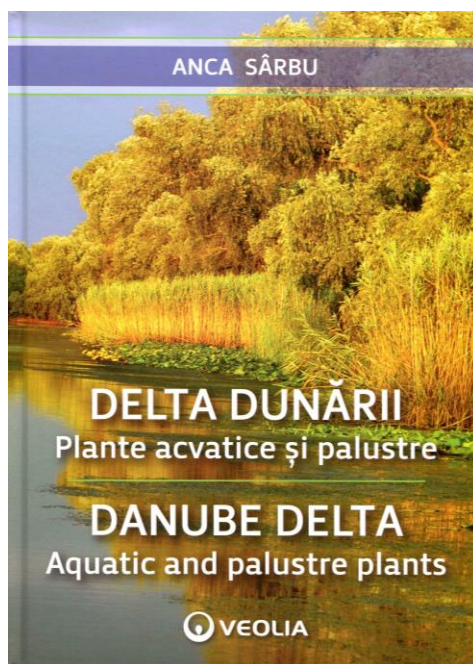


## **BOOK REVIEW**

ANCA SÂRBU, *DELTA DUNĂRII. Plante acvatice și palustre* [*DANUBE DELTA. Aquatic and palustre plants*], 2015, CERES Publishing House, Bucharest, 304 pages, ISBN 978-973-40-1100-1.



The new book, *DELTA DUNĂRII. Plante acvatice și palustre / Danube Delta. Aquatic and palustre plants*, conducted by Professor dr. ANCA SÂRBU, from the Faculty of Biology, University of Bucharest, is an excellent scientific and cultural event, welcomed particularly in the botanic literature in Romania and elsewhere. Mrs. Anca Sârbu is a well-known romanian botanist, publishing many botanical papers, both in romanian journals and abroad.

This book was born out of love for nature and especially for the plant world, coupled with her passion for photography. Thus, resulted a very good book, in which the color images occupies the largest part.

By its content and form, this book addresses both specialists and the general public lover of nature, representing an invitation and a useful guide to understanding the fascinating worlds, both terrestrial and aquatic or palustre levels. This delta of Danube river is a biosphere reserve, a Ramsar site, and is included in Natura 2000 network of protected areas in European Union, as SCI's and SPA's. The Danube Delta has also been included in the UNESCO World Heritages, since 1990.

The first part of the book give brief, but enough information for: location of the Danube Delta in Romania, its origin, physical and geographical data, climate, flora and vegetation, natural habitats, as well as an aquatic and palustre plants classification. Two natural habitats, namely 3150 Natural eutrophic lakes with *Magnopotamion* or *Hydrocharition*-type vegetation, and 3260 Watercourses of plain to montane levels with the *Ranunculion fluitantis* and *Callitricho-Batrachion* vegetation, are fully described in this chapter, highlighting their main features and the characteristic plant species inside this great river delta of Europe. A good idea was to introduce people some of the most offensive alien plant species into this area, as *Elodea nuttallii*, *Paspalum distichum*, or *Eclipta prostrata*., together with their mechanisms of multiplying and spreading.

At the end of the first part is inserted a table with the taxa included in this book, along with their family and their preferences against the water, as a main environmental factor.

The second part of this book, representing over 80% of the pages, contain short descriptions of those 128 ferns and flower plants. Each species is accompanied by one or more color images, all original, with detailed characteristics, their natural habitats, other accompanying species etc. All the plant species are displayed in alphabetical order, to ease the search for those who are less familiar with botanical classifications.

There are described and photographically shown a number of 128 of aquatic and palustre plant species, found on river banks and wetlands; these vascular plants belonging to ferns and to the flowering plants, some of them being common, some rare, in the flora of Romania, belonging to ferns (5 species) and angiosperm plant families (the others 123 plant species).

Each plant species is accompanied by a brief description of morphology, useful to recognize more easily a plant on the field, one or more color, high resolution photographs, which enhances the charm of this guide into the water plant world.

The second part concludes with an index of the scientific and vernacular names of all the taxa included in this book, both in Romanian language and translated into English language, and each page where they are to be found inside the book.

There are inserted many full plates inside the book, with beautiful pictures from the Danube Delta, with yellow and white lily waters, willows, birds, channels, amazing images of sunsets or sunrises etc.

The bibliography includes a total of 30 references, selected and used strictly for the purposes intended.

The text of this book is written in two columns per each page, one in Romanian language, the other in English language.

Achieving this book is the fruit of many field trips, starting with spring until late fall, during which the author accumulated an impressive amount of data, from which she elected this series of images, that delight the readers, urges to excursions, induce love and respect for nature itself.

We congratulate the author for this instructive, delightful, and relaxing book, waiting for fulfilling other books of this kind.

Ion SÂRBU, Adrian OPREA  
“Anastasiu Fătu” Botanical Garden, “Alexandru Ioan Cuza” University of Iași